



Literary fiction offers us a view into cultural and political orientations toward the world, situated across places and times. These fictions, through the expansiveness and limits of what they imagine, offer the potential of a critique of existing social structures as well as of justifying authoritarianism, imperialism, and racism. While a “utopia” is an imaginary world, a fantastical “no-place,” fiction in everyday settings, as well as in fictive utopias and dystopias, often helps us understand how particular communities value their ways of life, as well as what they imagine as possible and desirable.

With an eye toward examining real and imagined forms of political community and their relationship to literature, we will read a wide range of authors, styles, and contexts through the global forms of the novel and short story.

Potential authors: Chinua Achebe, Bora Chung, Graham Greene, Joseph Heller, Franz Kafka, Jean Rhys, Isabelle Allende, Aldous Huxley, Ursula Le Guin, Toni Morrison, Lu Xun, Yoko Ogawa, and Natalia Ginsburg.

CRN: 16768, Woodburn Hall G4, T/Th 10-11:15AM

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Questions? Feel free to email me at mrmanspeaker@mix.wvu.edu.